

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 367

Introduced by Assembly Member Koretz

February 14, 2003

An act to add Article 6 (commencing with Section 123630) to Chapter 2 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to maternal health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 367, as introduced, Koretz. Postpartum Mood and Anxiety Disorder: information program.

Under existing law, the State Department of Health Services is required to maintain a program of maternal and child health, which is administered by the department's Maternal and Child Health Branch. Under existing law, the maternal and child health program includes, among other subjects, pregnancy testing, perinatal health care, and nutrition.

Existing law also establishes programs relating to women's health, such as for the prevention and treatment of gynecological cancers, under the administration of the Office of Women's Health.

This bill would establish within the Maternal and Child Health Branch the Postpartum Mood and Anxiety Disorder (PPMAD) Information Program, to increase awareness and education among pregnant women and new mothers, and in the health care community, about specified postpartum mood and anxiety disorders. The bill would specify the required elements of the department's public information program, and would require the department to convene a workgroup of experts for purposes of developing the program. The bill would require the Maternal and Child Health Branch to consult and coordinate with

the Office of Women's Health in developing and implementing the program.

This bill would be implemented only to the extent that state, federal, or private funding is allocated for its purposes. The bill would, however, require the department to design the information program and secure federal and private funding using existing departmental staff and resources.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Article 6 (commencing with Section 123630) is
2 added to Chapter 2 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and
3 Safety Code, to read:

4
5 Article 6. Postpartum Mood and Anxiety Disorder
6 Information Program
7

8 123630. (a) The Postpartum Mood and Anxiety Disorder
9 (PPMAD) Information Program is hereby established in the
10 Maternal and Child Health Branch of the State Department of
11 Health Services.

12 (b) (1) The purpose of the program is to increase awareness
13 and education among pregnant women and new mothers, as well
14 as within the health care community, about postpartum mood and
15 anxiety disorders, including postpartum depression, panic
16 disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and postpartum
17 psychosis. The department shall place priority on making
18 information available to consumers, patients, and health care
19 providers regarding PPMAD. The department shall also
20 encourage hospitals, health plans, and insurance companies to
21 provide pregnant women and new mothers with this information.

22 (2) For purposes of this article, "health care provider" includes
23 therapists, counselors, physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists,
24 nurses, childbirth educators, nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners,
25 doulas, social workers, health educators, lactation consultants, and
26 pediatricians.



(c) In developing and implementing the program established pursuant to this article, the Maternal and Child Health Branch shall consult and coordinate with the Office of Women's Health.

123631. (a) The department shall establish a public information program for PPMAD awareness, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following elements:

(1) Development of continuing medical education activities for health care providers.

(2) Posting of relevant information on the department's Internet Web site.

(3) Use of radio, television, billboards, and similar methods of communication.

(b) The department shall consult with the state Children and Families Commission established pursuant to Section 130110 and shall encourage the commission to include information about PPMAD in the commission's outreach materials.

(c) The department shall provide information to health care providers about the availability of prenatal screening and assessment tools.

(d) Information provided to pregnant women and new mothers pursuant to this article shall include the availability of services for and treatment of PPMAD, including medication, professional therapy and counseling, support groups, and crisis hotlines.

(e) The department may produce or contract with others to develop the information required by this article. To reduce implementation costs, the department may also survey available brochures and patient information, Internet Web sites, support hotlines, resource and referral lists, and other information provided by advocacy and support organizations, for the purpose of providing information pursuant to this article.

(f) The department may adopt any regulations necessary and appropriate for the implementation of this article.

123632. (a) In developing the public information program, the department shall convene and be guided by a workgroup composed of experts and representatives of professional organizations and advocacy groups. The number of workgroup members shall be determined by the department. Members of the workgroup shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

1 (b) The workgroup members shall communicate with the
2 department by telephone and electronic mail whenever possible,
3 in order to limit expenses of the department and the workgroup
4 members.

5 123633. (a) This article shall be implemented only to the
6 extent that state, federal, or private funding is allocated for its
7 purposes.

8 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the department shall
9 design the information program established by this article using
10 existing staff and resources. The department shall also use existing
11 staff and resources to secure federal funding and private donations
12 for the program's implementation.

